

LUD 5664 (10017134)

CLAIMS

Claims 1-32 (cancelled)

Claims 33-55 (new)

33. A method for stimulating expression of a STAT transcription factor selected from the group consisting of STAT1 and STAT3, in a hepatoma cell capable of said expression, comprising contacting said hepatoma cell with an amount of human IL-TIF/IL-21 sufficient to stimulate said expression.
34. The method of claim 33, carried out in vitro.
35. The method of claim 33, wherein said human IL-TIF/IL-21 is encoded by SEQ. ID. NO: 25 or SEQ. ID. NO: 26.
36. The method of claim 33, wherein said hepatoma cell is a human cell.
37. The method of claim 33, wherein said human IL-TIF/IL-21 consists of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ. ID. NO: 43.
38. The method of claim 34, wherein said human IL-TIF /IL-21 is encoded by SEQ. ID. NO: 25 or SEQ. ID. NO: 26.
39. The method of claim 34, wherein said hepatoma cell is a human cell.
40. The method of claim 34, wherein said human IL-TIF/IL-21 consists of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ. ID. NO: 43.
41. A method for stimulating expression of a STAT transcription factor selected from the group consisting of STAT3 and STAT5, comprising contacting a mesangial, neuronal, melanoma or hepatoma cell capable of said expression with an amount of murine IL-21/IL-TIF sufficient to stimulate said expression.

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42. The method of claim 41, carried out in vitro.
43. The method of claim 41, wherein said IL-21/IL-TIF is encoded by SEQ. ID. NO: 7, SEQ. ID. NO: 8, SEQ. ID. NO: 9, or SEQ. ID. NO: 42.
44. The method of claim 41, wherein said IL-TIF/IL-21 consists of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ. ID. NO: 41.
45. The method of claim 41, wherein said IL-21/IL-TIF is encoded by SEQ. ID. NO: 7, SEQ. ID. NO: 8, SEQ. ID. NO: 9, OR SEQ. ID NO: 42
46. The method of claim 42, wherein said IL-TIF/IL-21 consists of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ. ID. NO: 41.
47. The method of claim 42 wherein said IL-TIF/IL-21 consists of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ.ID. No:41.
48. The method of claim 41, wherein said mesangial, neuronal, melanoma or hepatoma cell is a human cell.
49. The method of claim 42, wherein said mesangial, melanoma or hepatoma cell is a human cell.
50. The method of claim 33, further comprising inducing production of an acute phase protein, production of which is regulated by STAT 3 transcription factor.
51. The method of claim 49, wherein said acute phase protein is human serum amyloid A, I chymotrypsin, or haptoglobin.
52. The method of claim 34, further comprising inducing production of an acute phase protein, production of which is regulated by STAT 3 transcription factor.

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53. The method of claim 51, wherein said acute phase protein is human serum anyloid A, 1 chymotrypsin, or haptaglobin.
54. The method of claim 41, further comprising inducing production of an acute phase protein by said hepatoma cell, production of which is regulated by STAT3 transcription factor.
55. The method of claim 42, further comprising inducing production of an acute phase protein by said hepatoma cell, production of which is regulated by STAT3 transcription factor.